

A PEEP BEHIND THE CURTAINS OF MONTE CARLO



Monte Carlo

Kingdom of Gambling and Intrigue Stripped of Its Glamour by a French Journalist—Ruler of Monaco Spends Income From Tables on Science—Heir Squanders His in Paris

The Monegasques, chanting the "Marseillaise," soon reached the gates of the Governmental palace, which had been prudently closed. Behind them gleamed the bayonets of the carabinieri and the helmets of the firemen. The moment was truly thrilling.

"Comrades!" cried a voice among the conspirators. "We must all enter the palace!"

"Gentlemen," replied an officer from behind the iron gates, "if you wish to enter the palace you have only to ask for a letter of audience from the Governor."

But this levity ill accorded with the feeling of the insurgents, who rushed upon the locked gates, but without being able to force them. After a few minutes of vociferous tumult the Monegasques decided that the palace was too strong to rush and retreated in good order to the Place d'Armes, crying that they would return with dynamite. This threat, which was entirely the outcome of a lively southern imagination, was taken seriously by the Government side and the situation seemed serious.

had to lodge a complaint. Her complaint, by the way, was received by the railway official with the consoling reflection: "Ah! These women! They have so many hats and so little head!"

Meanwhile the gentlemen mounted to old Monaco and plunged into the narrow little streets, the houses of which date back four or five centuries, evidently in search of something. Suddenly they stopped. In front of them they found fifteen cannons, pointing their menacing muzzles in their direction.

"Hooray! Hooray! It's a real revolution!" they exclaimed, but their joyous manifestation attracted the attention of two carabinieri, who asked them to explain their noisy outburst.

"Well, we have come straight from London to see the revolution and these cannons show us how important it is."

The carabinieri, half afraid that the strangers were only making fun of them, explained that these guns were merely historical curiosities and that the youngest of them was made in the reign of Louis XIV.

declared that the rumor of an uprising had been spread by the Prince to attract visitors and declaring that they would sue him for obtaining money under false pretences.

In January, 1911, Prince Albert, fearing that his son Prince Louis might be put at the head of the Government by his mutinous subjects, granted a constitution to his people. This constitutional law, drawn up by three carefully chosen French jurists, comprises an infinite number of articles, more articles certainly than there are Monegasques. The proclamation of the law was far from satisfying the nation, which remained and still remains "under arms," ready to seek further advantages.

One article only flattered its vanity by establishing a Chamber of Deputies, a Parliament in Monaco. Twenty-five Deputies, called National Councillors, sit therein, the elect of seventy electors. The Parliament meets in a little room, something like a country school room. A table covered with green cloth is placed at one end, whereat the President takes

TO spend one or even several seasons at Monte Carlo is not to know Monte Carlo. The fêtes and gambling tables occupy a transient visitor so fully that he has no wish to penetrate behind the scenes of the theatre, for Monte Carlo is a veritable theatre, not will the French press enlighten him on the real life of the little principality, because, for reasons easily divined, the French press prints nothing but what is complimentary and acceptable to its ruler.

The ruling sovereign of Monaco, his Most Serene Highness Prince Albert, is a member of a family whose exact name is Goyon-Matignon-Grimaldi. It originated in distant Brittany, where Etienne Goyon married Lude, Dame de Matignon, some 700 years ago. Their descendant, Jacques Goyon de Matignon, married Louise, the daughter of Antoine, the last Prince of Monaco, in 1715, whose family name was Grimaldi and who was also Duke of Valentinois, a French peer.

The name Monaco is traditionally derived from a temple to Hercules Monaco which once occupied the site of the present town. The principality has passed through various stages. From being independent, it was placed under the protectorate of France in 1641, then united to France, and later in the beginning of the nineteenth century restored to its former rulers as an independent little State.

The ruling Prince, Albert Honoré Charles, has preserved the motto of his ancestors, "Deo Juvante." He was born in 1848 and married in 1889 Marie Alice Heine, the widow of Armand, Duke of Richelieu and Fronsac (a direct descendant of the great Cardinal), and succeeded his father, Charles III, twenty days before his marriage. By a former marriage he has a son, Louis; by his second marriage he has no children, but his wife, when Duchess of Richelieu, had a son, who of course has no rights of succession in the principality.

Prince Albert, a poor man forty years ago, as was his father before him, has realized an immense fortune since gambling was installed in his principality. For years he was content to live as a gambler on the revenue brought in by the gambling society that managed Monte Carlo, but late in life boredom and ennui, with conscientious scruples, assailed him and he decided to become a savant, a man of science, somewhat as women, once the beauties of their time, seek to atone for their sins by becoming nuns.

He suddenly, without any known preparation, became an oceanographer. No longer "Prince of Roulette," he took to exploring the great depths of the ocean. For some years he discovered little lobsters and crabs, but when his instruments grew more perfect he succeeded in capturing various specimens of sea life, not merely unknown to modern naturalists but of interest to the world's investigators.

Henceforth his renown was assured. He had gained a distinct place among oceanographers and oceanography became an official science.

The Prince of Monaco is, however, in every sense of the term, a man of ambition and is not satisfied with his fame as an oceanographer; to him it wishes to add the laurels of a diplomatist, and in his leisure moments acts as the representative in partibus of his neighbor the French Republic.

During the Dreyfus affair he carried on the secret diplomacy which never ceased between Paris and Berlin, and his real on behalf of Dreyfus was ascribed to his marriage with a Jewess and did not add to his popularity with the French masses. Later when France had decided on the separation of Church and State the Prince of Monaco was specially charged by the French Government with various missions, the exact purport of which will not be known until the secret history of that movement has been written out which certainly served to precipitate events, notably at the time when the French cabinet decided to expel the Papal Nuncio, Mgr. Montignoso, at twenty-four hours notice.

Prince Louis, heir to the throne, nearly reached it prematurely in 1910, when his father opposed a revolutionary movement among his subjects, who called upon the regular son to displace the unpopular father. Some details of this Monegasque uprising, which would form the subject of an excellent dramatic comedy, will be given later, after a few details on the personality of the heir.

Formerly a cavalry officer, with service under the French colors in Algeria with the chasseurs d'Afrique, Prince Louis was devoted to a Parisian life. He visits Monaco but seldom and only stays a few days when he does come. The Prince became a father some few years ago

of a daughter whose mother was a professional beauty of Paris, and he has found his child a useful instrument in dealing with his father, with whom, in accordance with the tradition that holds in far greater realms, he is on terms of very strained relationship.

Prince Albert, the ruler, was always strongly opposed to this child bearing the historic name of Grimaldi, which, however, her father, Prince Louis, had a legal right to give her if he formally recognized her as his child, but as his father threatened to cut off his allowance the young Prince has never ventured to take that step.

The little girl then was brought up in the household of the reigning Prince, her grandfather and her mother, amply provided with means, was compelled to undertake never to see her daughter or try to see her. She has resumed her life as a professional beauty and may be met in the most extravagant night restaurants of Paris scattering her money with both hands.

Already growing old, her silence has been bought at a price high enough to assure it; she lives under the special surveillance of the secret police, who are the most regular frequenters of such resorts and who watch that she keeps her engagement faithfully.

Prince Louis, constrained to break this liaison, determined to use his daughter, who was then in one of his father's houses in Paris, under the care of a governess, as a means to obtain an increase in his allowance. Early last year all Paris was talking of a mysterious abduction. A messenger on top of an omnibus wrote to the papers saying that as he passed through the Trocadero quarter he saw an automobile stop in front of a fine house, that a man got out and picked up a little girl who was just about to enter the house with her nurse and threw her into the automobile, which started off at high speed, the little girl shrieking with fear.

An attempt was made to hush up the affair by saying that it was nothing but a performance arranged for a moving picture camera; but it soon became known, although the reigning Prince spared no money to keep the incident secret, that it was Prince Louis abducting his own child from the hands of his father, whose affection for her is unlimited.

Prince Albert had to agree to his son's terms before he could obtain possession of his grandchild again. The heir apparent agreed to hand over the child to his father on condition that he was given a legal name and that he was allowed an income which would enable him to sustain his rank in fitting style.

The Prince of Monaco, whose generosity is invariably restricted to lobsters and other denizens of the deep or matters connected with oceanography, gave way without much ado; he paid his son's debts, accorded him an income, said to be \$20,000 a year, and issued a sovereign ordinance by which his Serene Highness granted the title of Duchess of Valentinois to the little girl.

Prince Louis remains a bachelor; he has replaced his child's mother by an actress, but is now a man who takes little interest in anything except police raids at night. That has become his sole excitement. As soon as he learns that the police are going to raid some ignominious hotel or gambling club he at once takes steps to obtain permission to accompany them. On one occasion he could only effect his purpose by disguising himself as a policeman.

Prince Albert of Monaco and his wife, Princess Alice, widow of the Duke of Richelieu, live separate. By birth the Prince belongs to the highest Jewish society. Extra-gentle to excess, never able to keep any money, she was none too pleased when she learned, on the death of her father, that his will only left her the income arising from his property. Her father, knowing her absolute indifference to the value of money, had made it impossible for her to touch the capital.

An anecdote is told in reference to the causes which led up to the separation of Prince Albert and his wife, which throws some light on the difference of their characters. A bill was sent to Prince Albert one day amounting to \$26.40; it was for mineral waters supplied during a month. The Prince, who is at least economical, hastened to find his wife, and waving the bill in the air exclaimed: "But Madame, it's crazy! How can any one consume \$26.40 worth of mineral waters in a month? Such extravagance cannot be admitted; it's insupportable!"

What Princess Alice replied has not been reported, but it is certain that it was as a result of scenes like this one that a separation was made.

The Princess lives for most of the year in her chateau of Haut Buisson, where rumor says that she gives mysterious fêtes in which spiritualism has its part.



At a Roulette Table

Her partiality for a French musician, composer of several operas, has caused some ill-natured gossip, but her kindness of heart is recognized on all hands. She is much more beloved in Monaco than the ruling Prince.

Always ready to help, of boundless charity, of the utmost simplicity in manner, she was for long the providence of the Prince's humbler subjects. At the present time the Monegasque territory is intended to her, and this intention, as unkind and unjust as it is unjustifiable, was undoubtedly one of the factors which drove the tiny principality to the verge of rebellion two years ago.

When the Princess, always known as "La Bonne Princesse," visited the sick at the hospital or at their homes, each one received in his or her own hand, from her hand, a princely gift. Nowadays the Prince is satisfied by hastily traversing one or two wards of the hospital and handing a sum of money to the nun who is the director. This sum, according to local belief, is far more likely to reach Rome than the alms of the district.

It should be borne in mind that the size of the principality is only twenty-two square kilometers. Its population numbers about 20,000, the majority being French, Italians coming next. The Monegasques, properly so called, number about 450, of whom 95 only were born in Monaco. The rest are officials or tradesmen, naturalized for their own interests.

Fifty years ago the principality extended to Mentone, but at that time (when Napoleon the Third reigned) the country was very poor (the gambling era not having commenced) and Prince Charles III, sold Roquebrune and Mentone to France to raise some money, his subjects, being given the choice, choosing for France. Since that time the increasing prosperity of Monaco has naturally sharpened the appetite of the Monegasques, who, although having no taxes to pay or military service to perform, consider they do not sufficiently benefit by the general fortune.

Unemployment is unknown, but not satisfied with their easy lot they have decided that they should have control of their Prince's finances and share in the millions so easily obtained in the Casino. To realize this ambition was no easy matter.

One day in October, 1910, the Monegasque national flag, white and red, was torn in two on the Place d'Armes of Monaco, the white was thrown away and the red, the symbol of revolt, was waved. The ninety-five native born Monegasques, grouped at the foot of the rock on the summit of which is built the Prince's palace, swore to deliver their country from the tyrant who, according to them, was oppressing it. Preceded by a woman brandishing their standard they rushed up the slope that leads to the Governor's palace.

It was now midday, the Prince's army, 100 carabinieri and 100 policemen, reinforced by the fire brigade, awaited the revolutionists massed in the Government square. But the Governor of the principality, supreme head of the army in the Prince's absence, felt far from reassured. His spies had warned him that the carabinieri, almost all married to Monegasque wives, would refuse at the last moment to march against or fire on the 95 revolutionists, who represented to the 100 carabinieri, 95 fathers or brothers-in-law, cousins or nephews.

Prince Louis, the popular heir, intervened and succeeded in calming not only the mutineers but the anxiety that was beginning to rise in foreign countries, where it was feared that local troubles would interfere with the coming season at one of the world's playing spots.

The Prince of Monaco was convinced that his position was insecure. Around him in Paris a swarm of secret service men pretended to be protecting him against an attempt to assassinate him which was threatened a thousand times. In Monaco the Governor, taking the mutiny as serious, asked the protection of the French Government, and night and day a battalion at Mentone and another at Villefranche were kept in readiness to enter Monaco.

An official was kept at the telephone all day, and another was kept on duty all night with green lights ready at hand to summon the French troops at the first sign of an attack. Against the ninety-five revolutionists, twenty of whom never ceased their profitable profession as croupiers all through the "revolution," some 2,000 men were kept under arms prepared to "restore order." As for the dynamite, some was found; it was that destined for use against the rocks encumbering the port of Monaco.

On January 1, 1911, there lauded at



The Casino Monte Carlo

Monaco, direct from London, five or six English visitors. Without waiting to choose a hotel they at once took the little tramway which runs direct to the Prince's palace. They did not even wait to assist a lady who had travelled with them, having lost two hat boxes on the journey;

"And the revolution? Where is it?" The word "revolution" aroused suspicion in the minds of the Prince's army representatives and they ordered the inquisitive foreigners to depart under penalty of being arrested. The Englishmen left, giving vent to their annoyance,

his seat. Twenty-four desks in rows serve for the Deputies. Space is left for the public behind the desks, but if the public numbers over twenty all present would be in danger of suffocation.

When the President has opened the session the hearts of the Deputies are moved by deep emotion. In the first place they shrink from speaking in French, the official tongue, being accustomed to expressing themselves in an Italian patois. Secondly, they are greatly disturbed by the presence of two reporters representing the two newspapers of Monaco, who sit there ready to commit to paper any defects in their speeches.

But the greatest drawback they endure arises from the regulation that only the polite "voies" must be used in speeches, whereas in daily life these honorable representatives never use anything but the familiar "tu" in speaking to one another; the rules, however, forbid Deputies to "tutoyer" one another. And thus it is always happening that a Deputy will commence in parliamentary diction most correct:

"Monsieur le President, I have the honor, in the name of my colleagues, to ask you (vous) to rectify paragraph two of the minutes of the last session."

"But, Monsieur le Depute, you minutes have been read and passed. I do not see how you (vous)..."

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Every quarter of an hour M. Gaudin Blanc, the governor of the Casino, had a report brought to him a director's office of the state of Mr. Darnborough's